



# Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

*Celebrating 33 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*

[www.laccod.org](http://www.laccod.org)



## MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller  
President

Janet A. Neal  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

John B. Troost  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Bernard Siegel  
Treasurer

Wan Chun Chang  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Alexia Teran  
Harley D. Rubenstein  
Wendy L. Welt  
Sheila D. Wright

## **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Janet A. Neal at 1:21 p.m. The following were present:

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Present**

Janet A. Neal, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
John B. Troost, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Wan Chun Chang  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Harley Rubenstein

#### **Excused Absence**

Kecia B. Weller, President  
Michael G. Gureckas

#### **Unexcused Absence**

Wendy L. Welt

### **Board of Supervisors**

Martha Arana, Staff  
Mireya Rivera, Staff

### **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15, 2009 MINUTES**

Due to a lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes of April 15, 2009, was tabled for later in the meeting.

In the presence of a quorum, on motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Chang, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2009, were approved as submitted.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Susan Sussman provided public comment regarding California's budget cuts which have impacted Supplemental Security Income and Medi-Cal benefits including co-payments for medical services, optometry and dentistry. She urged the Commission and meeting attendees to write or phone the Governor's Office to voice concerns on these cuts.

Ms. Phyllis Coto, LA County Client Coalition (LACCC), provided public comment and reported that LACCC is going to Sacramento on May 22, 2009, to advocate for change to the proposed budget cuts that will affect social services programs including Medi-Cal benefits and Section 8 Housing. LACCC will be hosting the Hope and Recovery Conferences in June and July 2009 in various locations. Interested individuals should contact LACCC for additional information.

Mr. Daniel Garcia provided public comment regarding the State's budget cuts that will affect the In Home Support Services Program. He invited the Commission and interested individuals to join a *Rally* scheduled for May 22, 2009, at noon. The rally will commence at 300 S. Spring Street, in Downtown, Los Angeles.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In the absence of President Weller, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal reported that the Commission received a "Thank You" letter from Colonel Joseph M. Smith, Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) for the creation of the Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Veteran's Scholarship, under the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program. DMVA will be disseminating information on the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program to various veteran service providers. Colonel Smith commends the Commission's advocacy and initiatives for people with disabilities in the veteran community.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Martha Arana, Commission Staff, reported that at the recommendation of Supervisor Knabe, the Board of Supervisors reappointed Commissioner Harley D. Rubenstein to the Commission on Disabilities on May 19, 2009.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

*Recommendation to disseminate information on the Abilities Expo scheduled on May 29 - 31, 2009, at the Anaheim Convention Center*

Motion: Commissioner Chang, seconded by Commissioner Teran

*Vote: Unanimously carried*

Admission to the event is free.

### **Nominating Committee**

Chair Troost called for nominations from the floor. The following nominations from the floor were unanimously approved:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Wan Chun Chang
- Treasurer: Alexia Teran

There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Chair Troost reported the following 2009 – 2010 Slate of Officers:

- President: Janet A. Neal
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Kecia B. Weller
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Wan Chun Chang
- Treasurer: Alexia Teran

*Recommendation to approve the Slate of Officers for 2009-2010*

Motion: Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish

*Vote: Unanimously carried*

### **Public Relations Committee**

*“Disability Network” Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal reported that Ms. Teddie-Joy Remhild, Disability and Aging Advocacy, was the guest speaker on the Commission’s May 29, 2009 “Disability Network” radio program. Ms. Remhild provided information on the “250% Working Disabled Medi-Cal Program” which allows disabled individuals who are working full-time, part-time, or self-employed to be able to receive Medi-Cal health coverage and other benefits. For information on the program, please visit [www.disabilityandagingadvocacy.com](http://www.disabilityandagingadvocacy.com).

## **Events Committee**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal reported that on May 13, 2009, the Events Committee discussed the following:

### *Access Awards Luncheon*

- Potential nominees
- Theme of the Souvenir Program
- Color of the floral arrangements for the event

*(Commissioner Harley Rubenstein joined the meeting)*

### *Bill Tainter Scholarship Program*

Ms. Martha Arana, Commission Staff, reported that approximately 26 Bill Tainter Scholarship applications were received for the May 15, 2009 deadline. Applications will be submitted to Committee members for review and recommendation.

*Recommendation to approve the purchase of pens, as promotional items, at an amount not to exceed \$320*

Motion: Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish  
Vote: *Unanimously carried*

### *Community Services Committee*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal reported the following:

- The City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability meeting held a meeting on April 1, 2009. Copies of the minutes were distributed.
- The City of Los Angeles is planning to merge the Department on Disability with other social services departments and disband the Los Angeles City Commission on Disability.

Mr. Daniel Garcia provided public comment and recommended that the Commission purchase pencils instead of pens.

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### *ASI Report*

Mr. Kurt C. Hagen provided a written report that was received and filed and reported the following:

- Access Services, Inc. (ASI) Board meeting was held on April 27, 2009; the next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2009.
- The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency recently asked for ASI's support of AB144, which amends the California Vehicle Code to address the problem of disabled parking placard.
- ASI adopted a new proposed fare structure that will become part of the paratransit plan update.
- ASI will discuss the issue of mats and harness clips for securement of service animals at the next ASI meeting. ASI agrees with the use of mats for services animals and believes that individuals that use services animals should bear the responsibility of the maintenance of the mats, and service animal users believe that mats should be provided and readily accessible in ASI vehicles.

Mr. Hagen said that service animals should be treated as an extension of the person with a disability (an auxiliary aide), and as such, should be provided with necessary safety equipment. Mr. Hagen asked the Commission for their support, and to present this position to the ASI Board.

On motion of Commissioner Chang, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to support the proposal that ASI provide the necessary equipment (mats and safety clips for securement) as a safety device for service animals.

After discussion, the Commission approved unanimously to place on a future agenda, for discussion and approval, a draft letter to ASI regarding the limited paratransit services and the flaws in transfer points, in the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley areas.

Mr. Daniel Garcia provided public comment.

*MTA Report*

Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer, representing the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO), reported the following:

- Metro is working on attaching tether straps and tape markings to rider wheelchairs for securement tie-down on Metro fixed route buses, Access Paratransit vehicles, and other public transportation services in Los Angeles County.
- He shared a brochure titled, "Tether Straps for Mobility Devices" and a release form titled, "Wheelchair Marking & Tether Strap Issue and Installation," that will be provided upon installation of the tether strap and wheelchair marking. This form will provide customers with information on their responsibilities in the program, as well as, the responsibilities of Metro.
- Metro is also training drivers on the Tether Strap Program and Wheelchair Marking Program. Drivers will receive instruction on safely attaching tether straps and markings to wheelchairs.
- A consulting firm from Sacramento has been hired to assist Metro on improving accessibility on its website because some of its functionalities are not compatible with "readers" used by sight impaired individuals.
- To avoid accidents, individuals that use "walkers" and paratransit services are encouraged to use handrails on the lifts to secure themselves instead of holding on to walkers because "walkers" are not secured.

Mr. Daniel Garcia provided public comment and reported that drivers must be trained to operate the lifts manually in the event of emergencies.

**REPORT BY GORDON ANTHONY, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

In the absence of Mr. Anthony, Mr. Kurt Hagen reported the following:

- Mr. Gordon Anthony is still out on leave, and is estimated to return on July 1, 2009.

- OACC Disability Civil Rights Unit has two new staff members. Due to this unit's completion of a major three-year project, staff's time is limited, and they have been unable to come to a Commission meeting.
- OACC's Disability Civil Rights Unit is still updating the final 24 departments' Transition and Self-Evaluation Plans. The target completion date is June 30, 2009.

### **ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

- Invitation to the American Civil Liberties Union to a future Commission meeting
- Update on Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal Program
- Bill Updates by the Legislative Committee.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Ahead with Horses, Children's Demonstration, and Fun Day, will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Troost, seconded by Commissioner Chang, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m. in memory of Mr. Elliott Simmons, TV producer of "Living Well with HIV."

### **Guests**

Chip Hazen, ADA Officer, METRO  
Jessi Padilla, Eastern LA Regional Center  
Daniel Garcia, Eastern LA Regional Center  
Jane Goodman, Total Recall, Inc.  
Susan Sussman  
Erica Reinke, ADA Coordinator,  
City of Burbank  
Phyllis Coto, LA County Client Coalition

**Access Services, Inc.**  
Luis Pacheco

**County Department**  
Kurt Hagen, OACC